

Spring



Summer



Autumn



Winter

*at any season* #

*an  
appropriate  
gift*

*Yosemite*

*Nature Notes*

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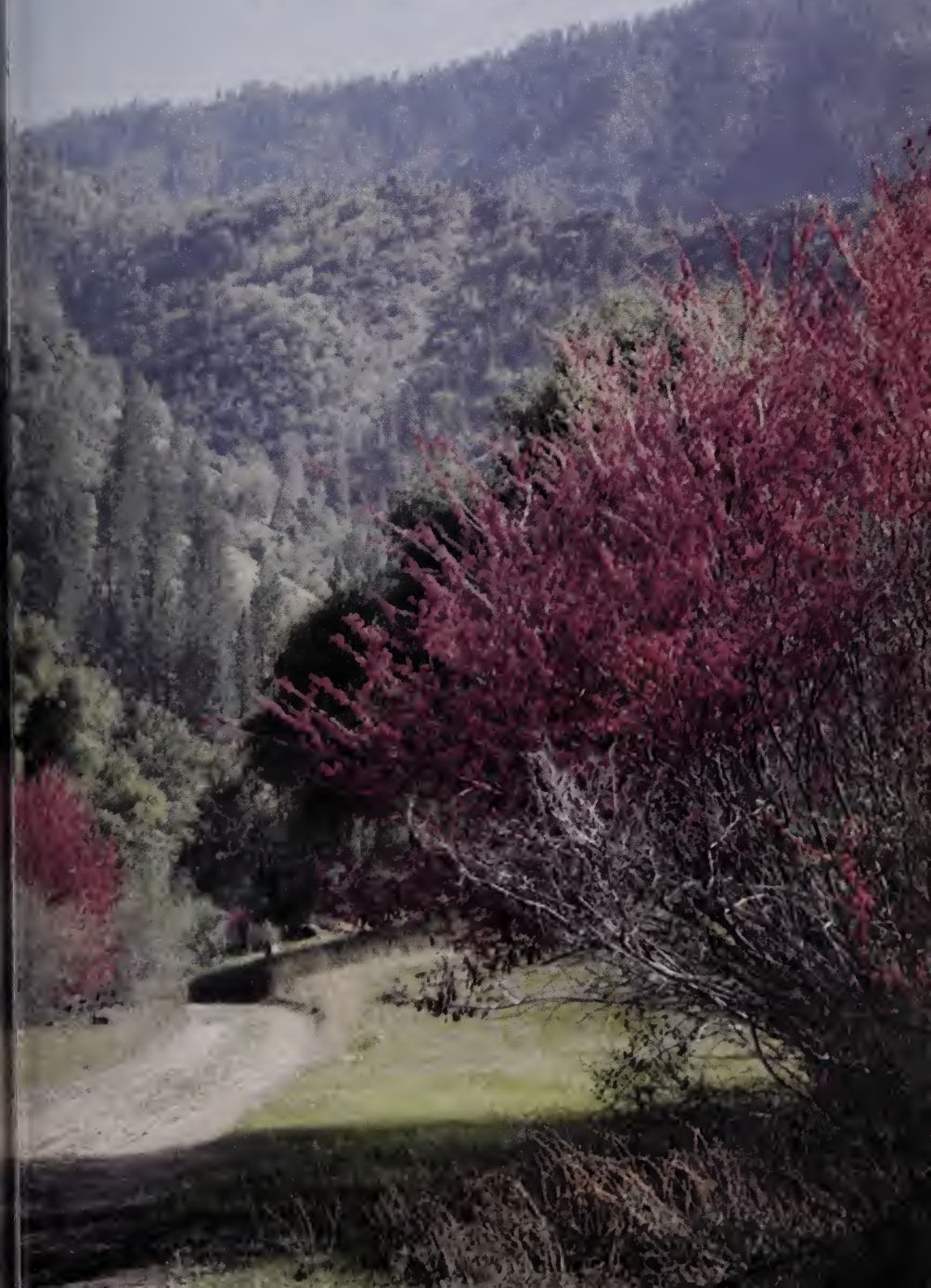
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# wild flowers of the Sierra



why wild flowers?



CALIFORNIA POPPY  
*Eschscholtzia californica*

California—"the Golden State" was named for the fields of golden poppies which blanket its valleys and foothills in springtime.

Flowers appeal to everyone: the delight of a child in a field of wildflowers will be reflected when the child becomes adult and gazes again upon familiar flowers—the finest examples of Nature's skill.

But our expanding civilization has drastically changed the face of the earth. Where a colorful blanket of wildflowers once lay, factories and freeways have sterilized the soil forever.

America's National Parks were set apart by our government to preserve for all time small portions of our country unchanged and unspoiled. In the National Parks all is protected, from the great cliff to the most minute flower.



In this booklet are but a few of the hundreds of flowering plants of California's Sierra Nevada range. All color reproduction material in this book has been supplied as a public service by Richfield Oil Corporation and is taken from its annual publication, *Wild Flowers of the West*.

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compiled by douglass hubbard, chief park naturalist,  
yosemite national park

# wild flowers of the sierra



in cooperation with the national park service

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california





## the foothills

The foothills of the Sierra are the first to be carpeted with wildflowers of countless varieties. As the foothills turn brown, flowers are in bloom in the meadows and higher in the range. By summer's end the flowers of the country will be at their prime.

The flowers in this booklet are divided into three groups according to where they are most commonly found—*foothills, meadows and valleys, and the high country*



One of the largest groups of flowering plants is the sunflower family. Many California wildflowers belong to it, including the Gold Fields (*Baeria* sp.), a common foothill flower.



### RED MAIDS

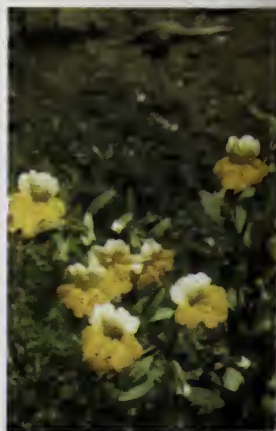
*Calandrinia ciliata*

In late afternoon these small ( $\frac{3}{4}$ "), bright flowers open. Common western wildflower 6" to 2 ft. high. March-April.

### YELLOW-AND-WHITE MONKEY FLOWER

*Mimulus bicolor*

Monkey flowers come in many colors and sizes in the Sierra. This species is 6 to 10" high, has  $\frac{1}{2}$ " flowers.





**PRICKLY POPPY or CHICALOTE**  
*Argemone platyceras*

The Prickly Poppy, well-named for its thorny exterior, prefers dry areas. Plants to 3 ft. high with 4" flowers. April-July.



**RABBIT BRUSH**  
*Chrysothamnus nauseosus*

A shrub common on the east side of the Sierra, 1 to 5 ft. tall. Rabbit Brush has flower heads up to 3" in diameter.



**CALIFORNIA BUCKEYE**  
*Aesculus californica*

A foothill species 10 to 20 ft. tall with bright green leaves. The showy flowers grow in clusters up to 6" long. June.



**FIVE SPOT or CALICO FLOWER**  
*Nemophila maculata*

The attractive Five Spot is an abundant flower in foothill meadows. Stems 5 to 10", flowers up to 1" across. April-August.



**FREMONTIA or FLANNEL BUSH**  
*Fremontia californica*

The furry underside of the leaves of the Flannel Bush gave it its name. Flowers 2" on shrubs usually 6 to 10 ft. tall.





**CHAPARRAL YUCCA**  
*Yucca whipplei*

"The Candle of Our Lord" is the Spanish name for the Yucca. This member of the Lily family grows 8 to 14 ft. high. May-June.



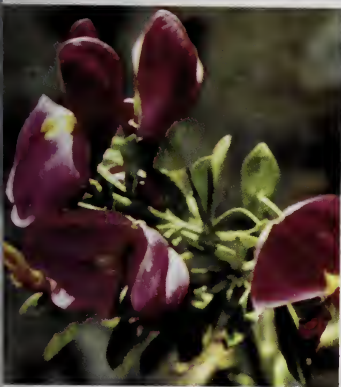
**BLUE-EYED GRASS**  
*Sisyrinchium bellum*

Small ( $\frac{1}{2}$ " ) flowers on stems 10 to high, Blue-eyed Grass is found in m parts of the West. March-May.



More than one hundred kinds of Lupine brighten California's fields.





CHAPARRAL PEA  
*Pickeringia montana*

This spiny, evergreen shrub lends light color to the foothills. Flowers yellow on plants 3 to 8 ft. high. May-June.



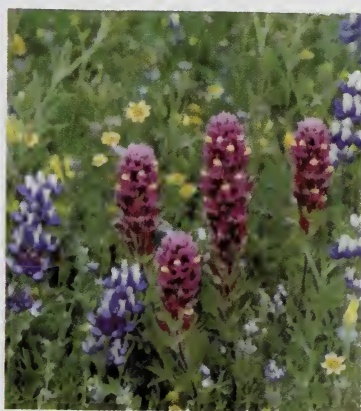
WESTERN REDBUD  
*Cercis occidentalis*

The Redbud is an attractive foothill shrub 8-15 ft., with clusters of  $\frac{1}{2}$ " flowers. It is also called Judas Tree. (See cover) March-April.



GOLDEN YARROW  
*Eriophyllum confertiflorum*

The flowers of the Golden Yarrow grow in clusters which average  $1\frac{1}{2}$ " in diameter. Dry area shrub 9 to 24" high. June-July.



OWL'S CLOVER  
*Orthocarpus purpurascens*

A bright wildflower common in open fields and hillsides, Owl's Clover grows 4 to 15" high. April-May.



INDIAN PAINT BRUSH  
*Castilleja* sp.

The Indian Paintbrush is a common wildflower in many parts of the West. Sometimes called *Castilleja*, its Latin name, it grows 1 to 2½ ft. high.



AMADOR DUDLEYA  
*Dudleya cymosa*

An attractive perennial herb with flowering stems, this succulent grows to 12". Usually found in rocky places in June-July.



MOUNTAIN LILY  
*Leucocrinum montanum*

The beautiful and fragrant flowers of the Mountain Lily grow in a central cluster close to the ground.



SYRINGA or MOCK ORANGE  
*Philadelphus lewisii*

The fragrant Syringa, 4 to 11 ft. tall, is found in many parts of California. Shoots were used by Indians for making arrow shafts.



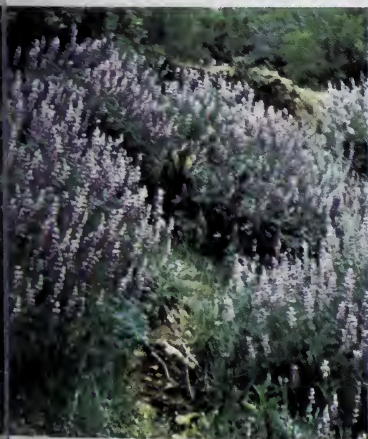


Species of flowers including Purple  
 Clover and Popcorn Flowers combine to  
 colorful blanket.

#### CREAM CUPS

*Platystemon californicus*

These flowers grow on stems 3 to 12" high  
 with leaves on lower portion only. In clay or  
 sandy soils.



#### BUSH LUPINE

*Lupinus sp.*

One of the largest lupines, the Bush Lupine,  
 grows to 6 ft. high. Common along  
 hillsides of central and southern Sierra.



#### WYETHIA

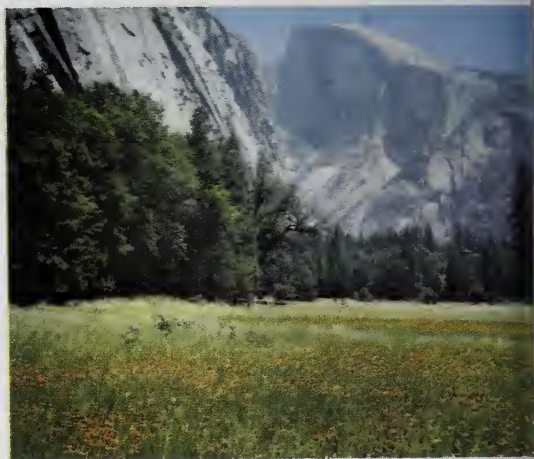
*Wyethia helenioides*

A common perennial along the lower  
 slopes of the Sierra, the Wyethia has  
 flowers up to 4" in diameter on stems 1  
 to 2 ft. high.

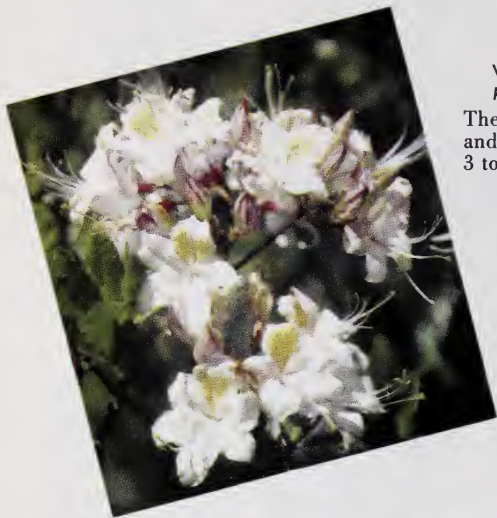


## meadows and valleys

Many kinds of wildflowers grow in the middle elevations of the Sierra. In traveling from the San Joaquin Valley to the crest of the range, you will pass through six life zones—the Lower Sonoran, Upper Sonoran, Transition, Canadian, Hudsonian, and Arctic-Alpine. Each zone has plant and animal “indicators” which tell the visitor that he is in that particular climatic belt.



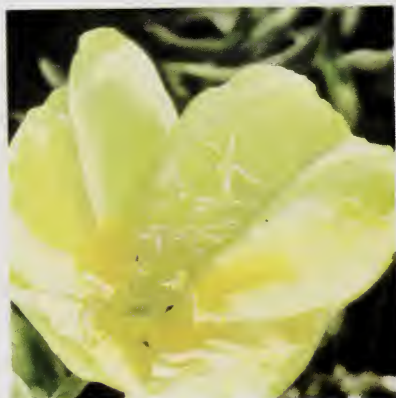
Half Dome overlooks Yosemite Valley and of Sneezeweed.



### WESTERN AZALEA

*Rhododendron occidentale*

The fragrant Western Azalea grows along stream and in moist meadows in many Sierran regions. Sh 3 to 10 ft. tall, flowers to 2". May-July.



### BUTTERCUP

*Ranunculus* sp.

Many kinds of buttercups are found in the West. Their latin name means “little” since some species grown in marshy places.

### EVENING PRIMROSE

*Oenothera hookeri*

A showy Sierran flower which bursts rapidly into full bloom early in the evening. Stems 3 to 6 ft., flowers 2 to 4" across. June-September.





**BEAR GRASS** *Xerophyllum tenax*  
This 2 to 6 ft. high plant was important to the Indians. The roots, roasted, were eaten and leaf fibres used in making clothing. May-July.



**RED RIBBONS** *Clarkia* sp.  
This colorful annual, *Clarkia* is found in many parts of California. It was named for Captain Clark of the Lewis and Clark expedition.



**PITCHER PLANT or COBRA PLANT** *Darlingtonia californica*  
This unique plant can trap and digest all insects. Grows to 18" with 2" flowers. In moist areas. May-July.



**PACIFIC DOGWOOD** *Cornus nuttallii*  
Modified leaves of white, usually 6, surround a small crowded Sierran head of flowers on this spectacular Sierran plant, which grows 10 to 30 ft. high.



**TIGER LILY or LEOPARD LILY** *Lilium pardalinum*  
Wet meadows are the usual home of the beautiful Tiger Lily, which may grow to heights of 7 ft. June-August.



**TIDY-TIPS** *Layia platyglossa*  
A bright member of the sunflower family, abundant in many parts of California. Stems 4 to 16" high, flowers to 2". April-May.



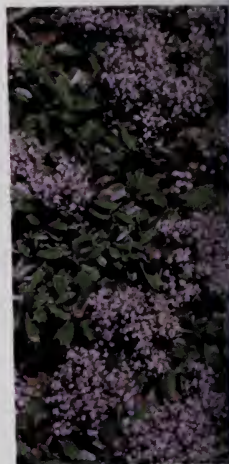
**BITTER ROOT**  
*Lewisia rediviva*

These beautiful flowers may be red or white. This  $\frac{3}{4}$ " to 2" high plant was named for Captain Lewis of Lewis and Clark. April.



**MONKEY FLOWER**  
*Mimulus* sp.

Monkey Flowers are among the most attractive of California wildflowers. Their Latin name, *Mimulus*, means a comic actor, because the flowers appear to be grinning.



**MAHALA MAT or SQUILL**  
*Ceanothus prostratus*

The branches of this plant are woody and form a dense mat. It is found in pine woods of the Sierra Nevada.



Tahoe, one of the world's largest high lakes, is shared by California and Nevada. The Paint Brush (*Castilleja*) is a common western wildflower.





or yellow pines form a backdrop for the fragrant Western Azaleas (*Rhododendron* *is*). These shrubs, common also along streamsides in the Sierra, bloom during early



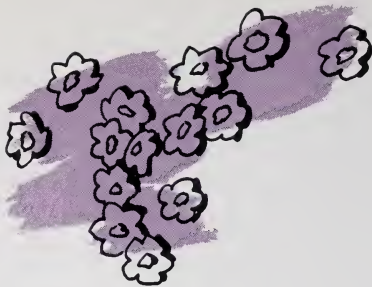
PINK MONKEY FLOWER  
*Limnium lewisii*

beautiful Pink Monkey Flowers  
on stems 1 to 2 ft. high in moist  
s of the Sierra and Cascades.



INDIAN RHUBARB,  
UMBRELLA PLANT  
*Peltiphyllum peltatum*

Sturdy plant 1 to 4 ft. tall, frequently growing along  
streamsides. The fleshy leaf stalks, peeled, were  
considered a delicacy by Indians. June-July.



**WESTERN WALLFLOWER**  
*Erysimum asperum*

Common on rocky hillsides and in mountains in much of California, the Western Wallflower grows 1 to 2½ ft. high. March-April.



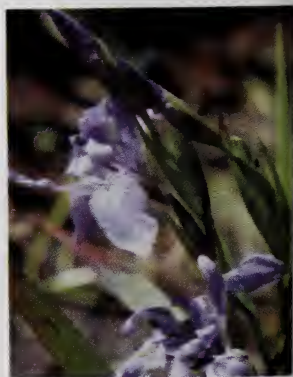
**MOUNTAIN VIOLET**  
*Viola purpurea*

Grows from 2 to 6" high on short stems from a sturdy root. Common from Southern California to Modoc County. March-July.



**LADY'S SLIPPER**  
*Cypripedium californicum*

Beautiful showy orchids on stem 1 to 6 ft. tall, flowers 1 to 6. Grows in moist places, Central California to Oregon.



**WESTERN BLUE FLAG**  
*Iris missouriensis*

Many moist meadows in the Sierra Nevada and the northwest are brightened by these flowers. Height 10 to 24", flowers long. July.





A forest of giant trees looks down on a meadow of blue Camass and yellow Wyethia.



**PARRY'S PARVIFLORUS**  
*Parrya parviflorus*

on along streams and open forests,  
imbleberry grows 3 to 6 ft. high.  
s to 2" across. Leaves often velvety  
h.



**INDIAN PINK**  
*Silene californica*

In open woods of cañons. Plants up to  
12" high, flowers to 1¼" broad. An  
abundant genus in the west. May-June.



Vernal Fall in Yosemite National Park was named for the lush vegetation at its base. Western Azaleas blossom in the foreground.



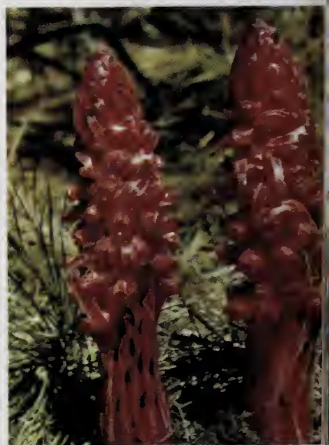
**MOUNTAIN PRIDE**  
*Penstemon newberryi*

On rocky ledges, 4,000 to 10,000 ft in Sierra and Coast Ranges. Stems 20" high, flowers to 1½" long. June.



**BABY BLUE EYES**  
*Nemophila menziesii*

Found frequently in moist places on valley floors and hillsides. Stems 3 to 18" long, flowers to 1½" wide. April-July.



**SNOW PLANT**  
*Sarcodes sanguinea*

One of the most spectacular plants, the snowplant grows 6 ft high. Numerous fleshy flowers on stem. June-July.





**VIRGIN'S BOWER or PIPE STEM**  
*Clematis lasiantha*

The profuse flowers of this plant often lighten an entire hillside. Flowers to 1" in diameter. In both Sierra and Coast Ranges. April-May.



**YELLOW BELLS**  
*Fritillaria pudica*

The stems of Yellow Bells are 3 to 9" high, may bear 1 to 3 flowers  $\frac{3}{4}$ " in diameter. April-May.



**CALIFORNIA DUTCHMAN'S PIPE**  
*Aristolochia californica*

A deciduous climber, Dutchman's Pipe may twine 5 to 12 ft. high on other plants. Flowers to 1½" long. March-April.



**MOUNTAIN MISERY**  
*Chamaebatia foliolosa*

A common ground cover in the Yellow Pine belt, rarely taller than 2 ft. with 1" flowers. Extremely pungent, also called Bear Clover. May-July.



**BLEEDING HEART**  
*Dicentra formosa*

In shady forests of Sierra and Coast Ranges; 8 to 18" high, leaves at base of stem. Flowers to  $\frac{3}{4}$ " long. April-June.



**SPICE BUSH**  
*Calycanthus occidentalis*

Often growing in moist places in the Coast Range and Sierra, also called Sweet Shrub from fragrant wood. Height 5 to 9 ft., flowers 3"

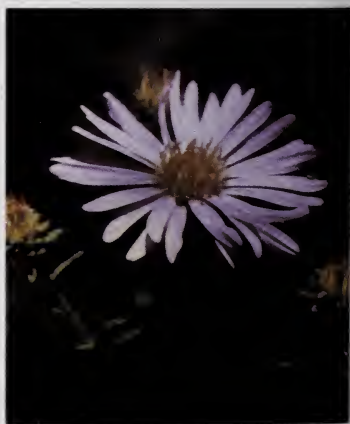


Rugged Sierran scenery is framed by Mountain Mahogany.



**BLAZING STAR**  
*Mentzelia laevicaulis*

Well-named, Blazing Stars grow on shiny white stems, 2 - 3½ ft. high in dry stream beds. Flowers 3 to 4" broad, in clusters.



**WESTERN ASTER**  
*Aster sp.*

Asters are profuse and colorful in many parts of the west. Their star-like flowers make them easy to recognize.





**FALSE SOLOMON'S SEAL**  
*Smilacina amplexicaulis*

These shade-loving plants are members of the lily family. Stems leafy, 1 to 3 ft. high. Undersides of leaves usually rough with short hairs.



**ANGUID LADY or MERTENSIA**  
*Mertensia ciliata*

-like flowers are about  $\frac{1}{4}$ " long on stems 2 to 5 ft. high. In mountains to 8,500 ft. June-August.

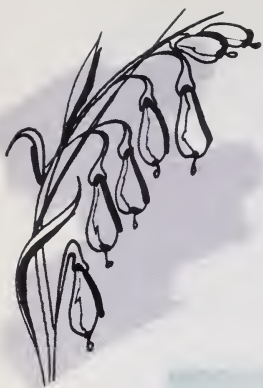


**WESTERN CHOKECHERRY**  
*Prunus demissa*

Usually grows as a deciduous shrub 2 to 10 ft. high. Flowers  $\frac{1}{2}$ " across in clusters 2 to 4" long. In Coast Range and Sierra.

ens (*Pop-*  
*ides*) pre-  
eas as do  
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Stars.





## the high country

Some of the most beautiful scenery in the Sierra is at the crest of the range. Here near timberline are species which know only a few short weeks of sunshine. In late summer when the flowers of the foothills and meadows have bloomed and faded, the hanging gardens of the high country bring a touch of color and a saying that there is springtime all summer in the Sierra.



On the east side of the Sierra, Sulphur Flowers and Indian Paint Brush brighten a promontory. Minarets in distance.



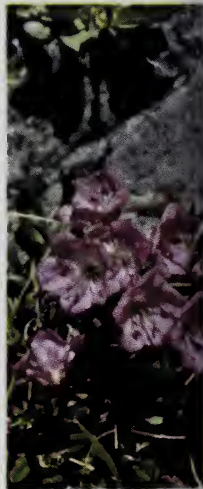
**WHITE HEATHER**  
*Cassiope mertensiana*

The bell-shaped white flowers of this beautiful alpine plant grow on stems up to 12" high. Rocky ridges and under ledges near timberline.



**ELEPHANT'S HEAD**  
*Pedicularis groenlandica*

The "trunks" of the Elephant's Head grow to  $\frac{1}{2}$ " on stems 6 to 14" high. In wet meadows of the high Sierra, northward to B. C.



**MOUNTAIN LAUREL**  
*Kalmia polifolia*

This diminutive shrub grows high with flowers to 14" high. Found on edges of swamps, 7,000 to 10,000 feet.



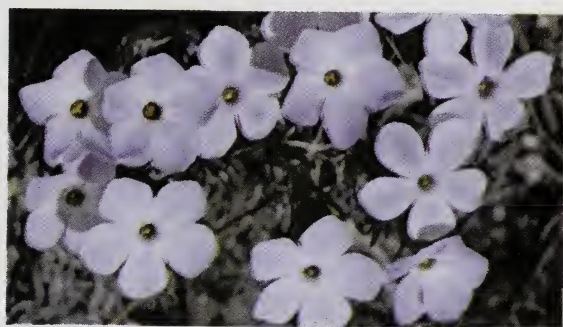


Close to timberline Western Wall Flowers and Whitebark Pines overlook Gaylor Lakes near Tioga Pass in Yosemite National Park.



**ALPINE BUTTERCUP**  
*Buttercupus eschscholtzii*

Perennial with erect stems 4 to 6" high. Flowers 3/4" across. Grows in streamlets on cool slopes. July-



**DOUGLAS PHLOX**  
*Phlox diffusa*

Grows in low mat 3 to 10" across. Flowers may be white, lavender or lilac, terminal on short (3 to 4") branchlets. On gravelly slopes and summits.



**ALPINE DAISY**  
*Leucanthemum saxatile*

Single flower up to 1 3/4" across on a 1 1/2 ft. high. Over much of the West, 8000 ft. to 12,000 ft.



**ALPINE COLUMBINE**  
*Aquilegia pubescens*

The showy Columbine is one of the most beautiful of western flowers. Stems 9 to 18" high, flowers nodding, with slender spurs to 1" long.



**ALPINE DANDELION**  
*Hulsea algida*

The high country from 11,000 to 14,000 ft. is the home of the Alpine Dandelion. Stems 2" to 7" high. Leaves and stems sticky, with soft hairs.



**SHRUBBY CINQUEFOIL**  
*Potentilla fruticosa*

Many branches 1 to 4 ft. high bear flowers up to 1" across. Grows at or near timberline 8,000 to 12,000 ft., Sierra north to sub-arctic.



**FIREWEED**  
*Epilobium angustifolium*

Named because it often comes up in moist burned-over places, Fireweed has erect stems 2 to 6 ft. high with flowers to 1" across.



**BLUE GENTIAN**  
*Gentiana* sp.

Several species occur in moist or boggy places throughout the west.



**STEER'S HEAD**  
*Dicentra uniflora*

Leafless stems 1 to 3" high with 1 or 2 flowers up to  $\frac{5}{8}$ " long with tips of outer petals recurved  $\frac{1}{4}$ ". Rocky slopes 6,000 to 12,000 ft.



**STICK-SEED,  
SIERRA FORGET-ME-NOT**  
*Hackelia velutina*

Erect, velvety stems 1 to 2 ft. high with blue or pink about  $\frac{1}{2}$ " across. Name



# index

<i>californica</i> . . . . .	5	<i>Erysimum asperum</i> . . . . .	14	<i>Peltiphyllum peltatum</i> . . . . .	13
<i>audleya</i> . . . . .	8	<i>Eschscholtzia californica</i> . . . . .	2	<i>Penstemon newberryi</i> . . . . .	16
<i>pubescens</i> . . . . .	21	Evening Primrose . . . . .	10	<i>Philadelphus lewisii</i> . . . . .	8
<i>platyceras</i> . . . . .	5	False Solomon's Seal . . . . .	19	<i>Phlox diffusa</i> . . . . .	21
<i>ia californica</i> . . . . .	17	Five Spot . . . . .	5	<i>Pickeringia montana</i> . . . . .	7
aking . . . . .	19	Fireweed . . . . .	22	Pink, Indian . . . . .	15
ple . . . . .	21	Flag, Western Blue . . . . .	14	Pipe Stem . . . . .	17
stern . . . . .	18	Flannel Bush . . . . .	5	Pitcher Plant . . . . .	11
estern . . . . .	10, 16	Forget-me-not, Sierra . . . . .	22	<i>Platystemon californicus</i> . . . . .	9
Eyes . . . . .	16	<i>Fremontia californica</i> . . . . .	5	Popcorn Flowers . . . . .	9
er . . . . .	4	<i>Fritillaria pudica</i> . . . . .	17	Poppy, California . . . . .	2
s . . . . .	17	Gaylor Lakes . . . . .	21	<i>Potentilla fruticosa</i> . . . . .	22
ot . . . . .	12	Golden Yarrow . . . . .	7	Primrose, Evening . . . . .	10
ar . . . . .	18	Gold Fields . . . . .	4	<i>Prunus demissa</i> . . . . .	19
Heart . . . . .	17	Grass, Bear . . . . .	11	Purple Aster . . . . .	21
Grass . . . . .	6	Grass, Blue-eyed . . . . .	6	Rabbit Brush . . . . .	5
. . . . .	5	<i>Hackelia velutina</i> . . . . .	22	<i>Ranunculus</i> . . . . .	10
. . . . .	10	Heather, White . . . . .	20	<i>Ranunculus eschscholtzii</i> . . . . .	21
. . . . .	21	<i>Hulsea algida</i> . . . . .	22	Redbud . . . . .	7
. . . . .	5	Indian Paintbrush . . . . .	8, 12, 20	Red Maids . . . . .	4
. . . . .	10	Indian Pink . . . . .	15	Red Ribbons . . . . .	11
. . . . .	21	Indian Rhubarb . . . . .	13	<i>Rhododendron</i> . . . . .	
. . . . .	4	<i>Iris missouriensis</i> . . . . .	14	. . . . .	10, 16
. . . . .	5	<i>Kalmia polifolia</i> . . . . .	20	Rhubarb, Indian . . . . .	13
. . . . .	17	Lady's Slipper . . . . .	14	<i>Rubus parviflorus</i> . . . . .	15
. . . . .	15	Languid Lady . . . . .	19	<i>Sarcodes sanguinea</i> . . . . .	16
. . . . .	20	<i>Layia platyglossa</i> . . . . .	11	Shrubby Cinquefoil . . . . .	22
. . . . .	8, 12, 20	Leopard Lily . . . . .	11	Sierra Forget-me-not . . . . .	22
. . . . .	12	<i>Leucocrinum montanum</i> . . . . .	8	<i>Silene californica</i> . . . . .	15
. . . . .	7	<i>Lewisia rediviva</i> . . . . .	12	<i>Sisyrinchium bellum</i> . . . . .	6
. . . . .	17	<i>Lilium pardalinum</i> . . . . .	11	<i>Smilacina amplexicaulis</i> . . . . .	19
. . . . .	7	Lupine . . . . .	6, 9	Sneezeweed . . . . .	10
. . . . .	6	Mahala Mat . . . . .	12	Snow Plant . . . . .	16
. . . . .	5	Mahogany, Mountain . . . . .	18	Solomon's Seal, False . . . . .	19
. . . . .	19	<i>Mentzelia laevicaulis</i> . . . . .	18	Spice Bush . . . . .	17
. . . . .	5	<i>Mertensia ciliata</i> . . . . .	19	Steer's Head . . . . .	22
. . . . .	19	<i>Mimulus</i> . . . . .	12	Stick-Seed . . . . .	22
. . . . .	22	<i>Mimulus bicolor</i> . . . . .	4	Sulphur Flower . . . . .	20
. . . . .	11	<i>Mimulus lewisii</i> . . . . .	13	Syringa . . . . .	8
. . . . .	17	Minarets . . . . .	20	Tahoe, Lake . . . . .	12
. . . . .	11	Mock Orange . . . . .	8	Thimbleberry . . . . .	15
. . . . .	21	Monkey Flower . . . . .	12	Tidy-Tips . . . . .	11
. . . . .	11	Monkey Flower, Pink . . . . .	13	Tiger Lily . . . . .	11
. . . . .	9	Monkey Flower, Yellow . . . . .		Vernal Fall . . . . .	16
. . . . .	14	. . . . . and White . . . . .	4	<i>Viola purpurea</i> . . . . .	14
. . . . .	21	Mountain Buttercup . . . . .	21	Violet, Mountain . . . . .	14
. . . . .	22	Mountain Daisy . . . . .	21	Virgin's Bower . . . . .	17
. . . . .	11	Mountain Laurel . . . . .	20	Wallflower, Western . . . . .	14, 21
. . . . .	17	Mountain Lily . . . . .	8	White Heather . . . . .	20
. . . . .	22	Mountain Misery . . . . .	17	Wyethia . . . . .	15
. . . . .	11	Mountain Pride . . . . .	16	<i>Wyethia helenioides</i> . . . . .	9
. . . . .	21	<i>Nemophila maculata</i> . . . . .	5	<i>Xerophyllum tenax</i> . . . . .	11
. . . . .	8	<i>Nemophila menziesii</i> . . . . .	16	Yarrow, Golden . . . . .	7
. . . . .	17	<i>Oenothera hookeri</i> . . . . .	10	Yellow Bells . . . . .	17
. . . . .	20	<i>Orthocarpus purpurascens</i> . . . . .	7	Yellow Pine . . . . .	13
. . . . .	22	Owl's Clover . . . . .	7, 9	Yosemite Valley . . . . .	10
. . . . .	21	Paintbrush, Indian . . . . .	8, 12, 20	<i>Yucca whipplei</i> . . . . .	6
. . . . .	7	<i>Pedicularis groenlandica</i> . . . . .	20		

The help of many individuals and organization would not have been possible. Giving photographers gave permission for us to excellent illustrations from the RICHFIELD OIL CO.'S annual WILD FLOWERS OF THE WEST:

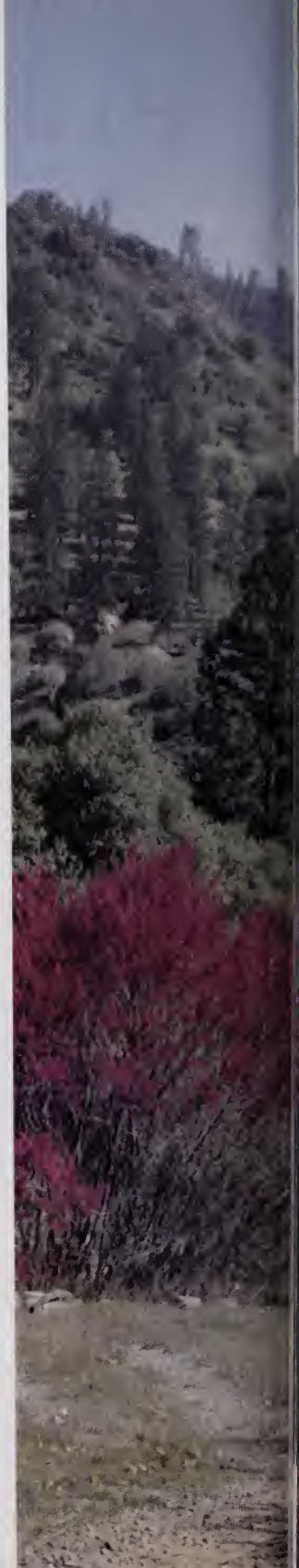
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Flower names and illustrations were checked for accuracy by DR. CARL SHARSMITH, DR. HELEN SHARSMITH, DR. HERBERT MASON and MRS. ENID M. BENSON. JEPSON'S A Manual of the Flowering Plants of California (University of California Press, 1925) was consulted for additional scientific data.

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To MARY CURRY TRESIDDER, whose interest and love of Sierran wild flowers has extended over a lifetime, this booklet is dedicated.





# YOSEMITE

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Vernal Fall

